April 23. 1685.

The manner of Procesſion to the Parliament-Houſe in Scotland, with His Majeſties Letter to the Parliament; The Lord High Commiſſioners Speech; The Lord High Chancellors Speech, and the Parliaments Anſwer.

07-3820

THis morning about nine a Clock (being the day appointed for opening of the Parliament) the Duke of *Queensberry*, his Majeſties High Commiſſioner called a Council in the Abby, where a Patent under the Great Seal, creating Secretary Lundin Viſcount of Melfort, Lord Drummond of Gilſtoun, &c. Being read in Council, was ordered to be recorded; And thereafter Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick of Cloſeburn, and Sir Robert Laurie of Maxwelltoun, who had formerly received Patents from his Majeſty as Baronets, were Dub'd by his Grace with the Sword of State.

About ten a Clock the Cavalcade began, the Streets from the Palace to the Neather Bow being on both ſides guarded by his Majeſties Regiment of Foot-Guards in excellent order, and all very fine in their new Arms and Liveries, from the Neather Bow to the Conſtables Guard at the outer Gate of the Parliament Court the Streets were railed on each ſide, and guarded by twenty ſix companies of the Train-bands, and the City Militia Regiment all in good order.

About half an hour before the reſt, the Earl of Perth Lord High Chancellor, and the Marqueſs of Athole Lord Privy Seal, the Earl of Kintore Lord Theſaurer Deputy, and the Lord Regiſter now Viſcount of Tarbat rode up in their Robes, the Chancellors Purſe and Mace being carried before his Lordſhip, and the Lord Theſaurer Deputy carrying a white Rod, being the Badge of his Office, as Comptroller of his Majeſties Houſehold.

Sometime there after the Cavalcade began in this manner.

Two Trumpets in their Coats and Banners bare-headed, } to uſher the way.
Two Purſevants in their Coats with foot-mantles, }

The Commiſſioners for Burghs, two and two, } All very fine with
The Commiſſioners for Shires, two and two, } their Foot-man-
The Lord Advocate & Lord Juſtice Clerk in their Gowns } tles and trapping
The Lords or Barons of Parliament in their Robes } conform.
The Biſhops two and two
The Viſcounts in their Robes
The Earls in their Robes, two and two
The two Archbiſhops
Four Trumpets in their Coats with Banners, bare-headed, two a-breaſt
Four Purſevants in their Coats with Foot-mantles bare-headed, two a-breaſt

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Six Heralds in Coats with Foot-mantles bare-headed, two and two
The Lion King at Arms in his Coat, Robe, Collar and Batton } Both bare-
The Uſher upon the Lions left hand } headed
The Sword of State born by the Earl of Airth
The Scepter born by the Earl of Marr } All bare-headed
The Crown carried by the Marqueſs of Douglas

Three Macers on each ſide of the Royal Honours bearing their Maces bare-headed.

The Earl of Drumlanrig bearing the Royal Commiſſion in a Crimſon Velvet Bag, bare-headed.

His Majeſties High Commiſſioner attended with four Knights on foot, two on each ſide bare, and uſhered by his Grace's Secretary and Gentleman of Horſe, and attended by Pages and Footmen; And in his return to the Palace, having the High Conſtable on his right hand, and the Great Marſhal on his left, with permiſſion Caps, and in their Robes.

The Duke of Hamilton in his Robes and Collar

The Captain of his Majeſties Troop of Guards on the head of the Troop, with their Trumpets and Kettle-Drums, all very fine in their new Liveries.

The High Commiſſioner being come to the Conſtables Guard, his Lordſhip attended his Grace bare-headed to the Marſhals Guard, and then both Conſtable and Marſhal in their Robes with their Battons in their hands attended his Grace up to the Throne. At the utter Door of the Parliament-Houſe the Lord Chancellor and the reſt of the Officers of State received his Grace, the Trumpets, Heralds and Lion in their Formalities going immediately before the Honours which were carried, as is above ſet down. At the utter Bar, the Lord Chancellor took the Purſe (the Embleme of the Great Seal) in his own hand, and uſhered his Grace up to the Throne, where being ſet, all the Members took their ſeveral places, the Biſhop of Edinburgh having ſaid Prayers, the Rolls were called by the Lord Regiſter, and then the Lord Chancellor went up to the Throne and received the Royal Commiſſion upon his Knee, which his Lordſhip delivered to the Clerk Regiſter, who read the ſame. That being done, his Grace put on his Hat to repreſent his Royal Maſters Soveraign Authority.

The Lord Regiſter reading the Formula, the Lyon King at Arms ſtanding on the ſteps of the Throne, Fenced the high Court of Parliament in the ordinary manner, and the Members having taken the accuſtomed Oaths, His Majeſties moſt Gracious Letter to the Parliament, was read, giving them entire Satisfaction. After which his Grace made an excellent Speech to the Parliament, ſignifying what he had in command from His Majeſty to repreſent to them, and what was expected from them at this meeting extreamly appoſite to the greatneſt of the Occaſion; And which was ſeconded by my Lord Chancellor in another very Loyal and Eloquent Speech, both which the Parliament deſired might be Printed. And it being moved by the Marquis of Athole Lord Privi-Seale, That his Grace might name a Committe for preparing an anſwer to His Sacred Majeſty, He named them accordingly, Viz.

From the Clergy,
The two Archbiſhops

From the Commiſſioners of Shires
The Preſident of the Seſſion,
Sir George Lockhart

From the Nobility
The Duke of Hamilton
Earl of Tweddale.

From the Boroughs
The L. Provoſt of Edinburgh
Provoſt of Linlithgow

The

The Patent creating the Lord Regiſter Viſcount of Tarbet Lord Mc. Cleod and Caſtlehaven, was likewiſe read in Parliament, and delivered to his Lordſhip.

For the Articles were choſen by the Biſhops

The D. of Hamilton	Earl of Marre
Marquiſs of Douglas	Earl of Strathmore
Earl of Errol	Earl of Southeſt
Earl Marſhal	Earl of Tweddale

By the Temporal Lords were choſen

The two Archbiſhops	The Biſhop of *Aberdein*
The Biſhop of Edinburgh	The Biſhop of Cathnes
The Biſhop of Galloway	The Biſhop of Breichen
The Biſhop of Dunkeld	

Which ſixteen Lords Spiritual and Temporal, with the Officers of State (who are ſtill ſupernumerary in all Committees of Parliament) made choice for the Shires of

General Dalyell	Sir David Balfour of Forret
Preſident of the Seſſion	Sir Thomas Stewart of Balcaskie
Colonel Douglas	Sir William Bruce of Kinroſſe
Sir *George Lockhart*	John Boyle of Kelburne

And for the Boroughs

Sir Geo. Drummond for Edinb.	John Johnſon for Glaſgow
.... Fletcher for Dundie	James Boile for Irving
Sir George Skein for Aberdein	Sir Pat. Murray for Drumferling
Alex. Miln for Linlithgow	Mr. Ja. Smalet for Dunbarton.

The Lord High Commiſſioner named a Committee for conſidering the debatable Elections, *viz.*

For the Clergy	For the Nobility
Biſhop of Edinburgh	Earl of Wintoun
Biſhop of Roſſe	Earl of Linlithgow
Biſhop of Dunblain	Earl of Belcarras
For the Shires	**For the Boroughs**
Sir James Foulis of Redford	Proveſt of Perth
Sir Robert Dalyell	Proveſt of St. Andrews
Will. Hamilton of Orbiſtoun	Proveſt of Culroſe

His Majeſties High Commiſſioner recommended to the Articles to meet to morrow at Nine a Clock, and to the Committee for Elections to meet at the ſame time; and adjourned the Parliament till Tueſday at Ten a Clock in the Forenoon; And ſo his Grace rode down to the Palace attended in the ſame manner as is above ſet down, where his Grace being ſerved in State by the Earl of Wintoun Maſter of his Majeſties Houſhold, aſſiſted by the Earls of Traquair, Annandale, and Kintore. At the ſame time the whole Members of Parliament were magnificently treated at Supper at ſeveral large Tables in the Gallery of the Palace now finiſhed and adorned with

the Pictures of his Majesties Royal Predecessors from Fergus the First, being 110 *Kings. And in regard this day Their Majesties are Crowned in England, and this being his Majesty's first Parliament in Scotland, the day was concluded with ringing of Bells, Bonfires, shooting of great Guns from the Castle, and all other expressions of Joy, and with the great and Universal satisfaction of the whole People who were gathered together in great Crowds from all part of the Countrey upon this solemn Occasion.*

His Majesties Gracious Letter to the Parliament.

JAMES R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The many experiences We have had of the Loyalty and Exemplary forwardness of that our Ancient Kingdom, by their representatives in Parliament Assembled, in the Reign of our dearest and most entirely beloved Brother of ever blessed Memory, made Us desirous to call you as this Time in the beginning of our Reign, to to give you an opportunity not only of shewing your Duty to us in the same manner, but likewise of being Exemplary to others in your Demonstrations of Affection to Our Person, and compliance with Our desires, as you have most eminently been in Times past, to a degree never to be forgotten by Us, nor (We hope) to be contradicted by your future Practices, That which We are at this Time to propose unto you, is what is as necessary for your Safety as our Service; and what has a tendency more to secure your own Priviledges and Properties than the Aggrandising our Power and Authority (though in it consisteth the greatest Security of your Rights and Interests, these never having been in danger except when the Royall Power was brought too low to protect them) which now we are resolved to maintain in its greatest Lustre, to the end we may be the more enabled to Defend and Protect your Religion as Established by Law, and your Rights and Properties (which was our Design in calling this Parliament) against Phanatical Contrivances, Murderers and Assassins, who having no fear of God more than Honour for Us. have brought you into such difficulties as only the blessing of God upon the steady Resolutions and Actings of our said dearest Royall Brother, and those employed by him, (in Prosecution of the good and wholesome Laws by you heretofore offered) could have saved you from the most horrid confusions and Inevitable Ruin. Nothing has been left unattempted by those wild and inhumane Traytors for Endeavouring to overturn your Peace; And therefore we have good Reason to hope, that nothing will be wanting in you to secure your selves and us from their outrages and violence in time coming, and to take care that such conspirators meet with their just deservings, so as others may thereby be deterred from courses so little agreeable to Religion, or their Duty and Allegiance to us. These things we considered to be of so great importance to our Royal as well as the Universal interest of that our Kingdom, that we were fully resolved in person to have proposed the needfull Remedies to you but things having so fallen out as render this impossible for us; We have now thought fit to send our Right Trusty and Right entirely beloved Cousin and Counsellor William *Duke of* Queensberry *to be our Commissioner amongst you; of whose Abilities and Qualifications we have reason to be fully satisfied, and of whose Faithfulness to us. and Zeal for our Interest we have had Signal Proofs in the Times of Our greatest difficulties, Him We have fully instructed in all Things Relating to Our Service, and your own Prosperity and Happiness, and therefore you are to give him intire Trust and Credit as you now see we have done; From whose Prudence and your most Dutifull Affection of Us We have full Confidence of your entire Compliance and Assistance in all those Matters wherin he is instructed as aforesaid. We do therefore not only recommend unto you that such things be done as are necessary in this Juncture for your own Peace and the support of our Royal Interest, both at home and abroad, but also that you do them so speedily as may Evidence to the World that you are still in the same manner addicted to the Royal Interest, of which we had so much Experience when amongst you, that we cannot doubt of your full and ample Expressing the same on this occasion; by which the great concern we have in you Our Ancient and kindly People may still encrease, and you may Transmit your Loyal Actions (as Examples of Duty) to your Posterity. In Full Confidence whereof We do assure you of Our Royal Favour and Protection in all your concerns. And so we bid your Heartily Farwell.*

Given at Our Court at Whitehall *the* 28th. *day of* March 1685, *and of Our Reign the first Year.*

By His Majesties Command.

DRUMMOND.

The

The Speech of the Lord High Commissioner.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HIS Majesty has been pleased so fully and obligingly by the Letter you have now heard to intimate his Royal pleasure to you, as what I am to say seems in a manner superfluous so I need not take up much of your time, nor shall I doe more than touch a few things as briefly as is possible.

And in the first place my Lords, This being the day of His Majesties Coronation in our Neighbouring Kingdom, you see he is no sooner placed on the Throne of his Royall Ancestors than he inclines to have your Advice in what may import the good of his Service and Subjects here, By which you ought not only to be convinced of the great confidence His Majesty has in the Loyalty of this his Ancient Kingdome, And their good Example to his other Dominions, but also how fully he makes good his Royal Word and Declaration, to follow (in his Reign) the Example of his late Majesty of ever glorious Memory under whose Protection and Government we enjoyed so long Peace and Quiet; I say (my Lords) as by calling you so soon, His Majesty expresses great confidence in you, and seems still mindfull of the Zeale and Affection of the last Parliament for the Rights and Prerogative of the Crown, so (in a due return) it is not to be doubted, but you will upon this occasion not only exceed what has been formerly done, but also comply with all that can be proposed for establishing His Majesties Greatness and your own Security, and by this convince the World how sensible you are of the great honour His Majesty has allowed you of being the first Parliament of his Dominions to do so.

I am in the next place to tell you, that His Majesty is very mindfull of the Duty and Loyalty of this Kingdom to his late Majesty and himself, when he was here amongst us: And the better to compose the minds of his faithful Subjects, I am allowed to assure you of his Princely Resolutions to protect and maintain the Religion and Government of this Church as they are now Established by Law, and that he will take the Persons and Concerns of the Regular Clergy into his speciall Care and Protection; And in order thereunto, I am to give the Royal Assent to such Laws and Acts as can be reasonably proposed.

I am likewise to let you know, That His Majesty will concernedly maintain your just Rights and properties according to the Established Laws of this Kingdom, and will not allow of oppressive Arbitrary proceedings in Stuldiers or others. And further his Majesty being sensible of the great decay of our Trade, has warranted me in his Royal Name to consent to such Laws as can reasonably be proposed for recovery and improvement thereof.

And my Lords, to conclude what I am to say on this Subject, His Majesty is so concerned in the Encouragement, Welfare and prosperity of this his Ancient Kingdom as He will not only do what can justly be desired or expected for these ends, but even in the Business of the Excise and Militia (his immediate concerns) I am warranted to go the greatest lengths for your ease and conveniency that the nature of these things can bear, and His Majesties Service and your own Security will allow.

And my Lords, His Majesty having in all things so evidently discovered his gracious inclinations for the good of this Kingdom and given us the full'st assurances of his Favour and Protection that our hearts can desire, what suitable Returns and Acknowledgments can we make to so excellent and incomparable a Prince? who in all things relating to our quiet and prosperity prevents our very desires; So if during his Reign (which I pray God to make long and glorious) we be not the happiest people in the World, we have only our selves to blame.

And now the King having so fully done his part, is concerns you in the next place to mind yours; And in order thereunto, I make no doubt but you will assert the Rights and Prerogatives of the Crown, and establish the Revenue as amply upon His Majesty and his Lawfull Successors as it was enjoyed by the late King or any of his Royal Predecessors, since you cannot (in the least) doubt but his Royal care for your repose and security will rather exceed than fall short of any of his Ancestors. But to use any further Arguments to incite you to what is so much your Duty and Interest, were at the same time to question your Loyaltie and Zeal for His Majesties Service, and your concern for the interest and honour of your Native Country whose Representatives you are, so I shall not injure you, nor lessen your thanks by saying more upon this Subject.

My Lords, His Majestie certainly expects from the Prudence and Loyaltie of this Parliament, that effectual ways will be fallen upon for destroying that desperate Phanatical and irreclaimable Partie who have brought us to the brink of Ruine and Disgrace, and are no more Rebels against the King than Enemies of Mankind; Wretches of such Monstrous Principles and Practices as past Ages never heard, nor those to come will hardly believe: What Indemnities and Acts of Grace and Clemency have they not Contemned? And all the use they made of them has still been to harden and confirm them in their execrable Villanies; and how inconsiderable soever they

appear.

appear, assure your selves they ought not absolutely to be contemned; for if they had not support and correspondence not yet discovered. It is not to be supposed they could have so long escaped the care and vigilance of the Government: It therefore concerns you both in Honour and Prudence, no longer to dally with them, but that the utmost severities be most effectually applied, and always taken, both to find out their Favourers and retired and secret Haunts.

My Lords, I doubt not but all of you sufficiently know that some of our Nation are deeply involved in the late Horrid Conspiracy, who (and some other for other Treasonable Crimes and Practices) are to be proceeded against before this Parliament; The Evidence of their Guilt I shall leave to its proper Place and Time, and do not doubt but His Majesties Advocate will manage that weighty matter with suitable care and faithfulness. So all I shall further say upon this Subject at present is, that if Almighty God (who watches over the Security of Princes) had not Miraculously Discovered and disappointed those the most Hellish and Barbarous Designs that were ever contrived, in Place of that Peace, Happiness, and Tranquilty which we now Enjoy, these Kingdoms had certainly been at this day a Sea of Blood, and in all imaginable Miserie and Desolation; which (being evident beyond denial) will certainly provoke your and all good Mens Indignation and Resentment against those who can be reached, not only as Advisers & Contrivers of such Villanies, but Concealers of them: And since our Honour & Security every ways seems absolutely bound up in the Life of His Sacred Majesty, ought we not most cheerfully to grant what the Exigencies of His mild and gentle Government requires? Especially seeing what we give is still bestowed upon our selves, and for maintaining us in our just Rights & Possessions, against the most cruel and Barbarous Designs of his and our Enemies.

And now my Lords and Gentlemen, in the last place touching my self I shall not say much, my unfitness for this Eminent Station is possibly more obvious to me than to any of you; however since His Majesty has been Graciously pleased to place me in it, I am resolved to serve him boldly and firmly, and thereby labour to make up my other great defects: And as this has still been my Practice in the other great trusts I have the Honour to carry under His Majesty, so I know His Goodness will always accept the sincere endeavours of His Servants in place of greater Performances.

The Lord High Chancellor's *Speech.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

After what my Lord Commissioner hath so well represented to you, it will be very little necessary for me to say much, I shall only take the liberty to put you in mind, (of what I believe you are very sensible already) of the many obligations this Nation lies under to be grateful to our great Monarch.

When by the Command of the late King, His Majesty who now Reigns came first hither, What disorder, divisions, and animosities found he amongst us? To bring the state of things into your prospect as it was then could not be very grateful to you, nor pleasing to me, but we all remember with joy how well he left us, and by what easy gentle ways he brought about the Establishment of that Unity, which we were begining to despair of.

Since that time, how much we have been in his particular care, during the Happy Reign of that Excellent Prince His Brother of ever blessed and Glorious Memory, is known to all the world.

But of all the instance of his Majesties Care for us, his Favour towards us, and his good Opinion of us, this of His calling us together in the very beginning of his Reign, (which God grant may be long and prosperous) that we might have the oportunity of presenting Him with the first Fruits of the Service of His Parliaments and becoming Examples to His other dominions, is the greatest and what we should prize the most, improving it as far as it will go.

When we consider what strange turns the extravagant Follies of some, and the malicious develish Contrivances of others among us have taken, since the last meeting of a Parliament, what Convulsions have attacked the Body of this Nation, and how vile a Ferment has raged in it, to have our advice called for by our Prince how to provide proper Remedies for it, is the greatest Honour could be put upon us,

That we may do what in Duty we are bound in return, let us lay aside all private Aims and Ends; For how can we hope to serve His Majesty, or promote the Interest of the Nation while our Eye is directed only towards our own particular? and let us with the Frankness and Cheerfulness of Honest SCOTSMEN, use all possible means for uniting of the Nation, and the driving from amongst us, whoever will not joyn with us upon such Terms, as may conduce to the advancement of the Honour and Interest of our King and his Crown, and the well being of this our Native Country, which we should not suffer to be defiled and rendred contemptible to the whole world by entertaining so venemous a Bastardly brood of villanous men, as have of late, to the re-

reproach of *Scotland*, and of Humane Nature it ſelf maintained Principles, and ventured upon practices not to be named amongſt any who have ever heard of a Government, much leſs of Religion.

My Lords and Gentlemen

You all know what a Conſpiracy hath been entered into by ill men of both Kingdoms, againſt the ſacred Lives of the late King and his preſent Majeſty; And who but incarnate Devils could think of attempting any thing againſt ſuch pre ious Lives? For what Prince in *Europe*, or the whole World, was ever like the Late King, except His Glorious Brother who now Reigns? & to have cut off any of them had been barbarous to a degree of making us appear more abominable than any people ever were, but for us to have loſt both, had been our utter ruine. Yet againſt both was the deſign laid, and had ſucceeded, if that watchful Providence, which hath ſo often preſerved the two royal Brothers in ſo many difficulties, had not defeated the ſucceſs, by an unforeſeen accident & had it ſucceded, what confuſion, what cruelty, what blood, what unexpreſſible Miſery had over flowed theſe Kingdoms.

But beſides this, we have a new ſect ſprung up amongſt us from the Dunghill, the very dregs of the People who kill by pretended Inſpiration, and inſtead of *The Temple of Lord, th. Temple of the Lord*, have nothing in their mouths but the word of God, wreſting that bleſſed conveyance of his Holy Will to us, to juſtifie a practice ſuggeſted to them by him who was a Murtherer from the beginning, who having moddelled themſelves into a Common wealth, (whoſe Idol is that accurſed Paper the Covenant, and whoſe only rule is to have none at all) have proceeded to declare themſelves no longer His Majeſties Subjects, to forfeit all of us who have the honour to ſerve him in any conſiderable ſtation, and will be ſure e're long to do ſo if not prevented by this great and Honourable Court. It is how to rid our ſelves of theſe men, and of all who incline to their Principles, that we are to offer to his Majeſty our advice, concurrence, and utmoſt aſſiſtance. Theſe Monſters bring a publike reproach upon the Nation in the Eyes of all our Neighbours abroad, while in their Gazets we are mentioned as Acting the vileſt Aſſaſſinations and the horrideſt Villanies, they render us unquiet and unſecure at home they bring reproach upon our Religion, and are our great Plague.

Let us for the ſake of our Allegiance, for His Majeſties Honour, for our Repuration abroad for the vindication of our Religion, and for our own Peace and Tranquility, make haſte to get our Eyes cured of it

If this were once effectuated, we might yet hope for quiet, and in order to the making quiet more comfortable to us, when once we come to a reſolution about what relates to the publick peace, and to the reſpect we owe to His Majeſty, we may have occaſion of conſidering what Laws may be neceſſary towards the facilitating the well gorverning of our ſelves and Native Countrey, both as to the regulating our Carriage one towards another, and the ſecuring our Eſtates, from any thing that may be uneaſie, from the diſtribution of Juſtice between man and man, as to the improving of our Trade and Commerce abroad, and encouraging Induſtry and Frugality at home, for in all theſe things His Majeſties care will not fail us. And my Lord Commiſſioners amongſt his many other advantages, is ſo well known to be a lover of his Country, that we need not fear, but that he will give his Concurrence in what he is allowed ſo freely to conſent to.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

To encourage us to do all we can towards the ſervice and the Honour of our Glorious Monarch, let us conſider him in all his Perſonal Advantages, whether in what relates to War or Peace, where has the World afforded ſuch another? One whoſe Natural Endowments have been improved by his great experience, at home & abroad, in Armies & Courts, by the greateſt tryals of the moſt differing kinds, thoſe of proſperity & ſucceſs, & of adverſity and oppoſition of hazards and toyle, and of authority and command. Did ever man ſhew ſo exact an Honeſty, In the ſtricteſt adhering to His Word; Such Temperance and Sobriety ſo indefatigable a diligence, in Affairs, ſo undaunted a Courage upon all occaſions, and ſo unwearied a Clemency towards the moſt obſtinate malicious offenders? Did ever Heroe compleat the Character ſo fully, in overcoming bravely, and ſhewing gentleneſs to the vanquiſhed? And I muſt ſay, the Triumphs of his Patiance are not His obſcureſt Glories; nor is the forgiveing of thoſe whoſe virulent Tongues would have tainted his Fame, if their malice could have reached it, what is leaſt to be admired in his; what Reputation other Princes have laboured for at the vaſt expence of Blood and Treaſures, and the putting of a conſtant conſtraint upon themſelves its ſo eaſie upon him what they would have, he forces from the conſciences of his very Enemies by his merit, and it coſts him no more than to be Himſelf. But this Theme is not for me, I do Him wrong and while it may be at this very moment, He is receiving the acclamation of his good Subjects, in the chief City of our Naighbour Nation, at the

great

[illegible] of his Coronation there, I am detracting from him here, by giving him so low a Character.

I should only add, that he gave to Subjects the greatest example of Loyalty and Obedience while He was one [illegible] and now He is an example to all Kings in His love, His Clemency, and care towards his People. Let us give Him the return of our Love, our Fidelity, and our Obedience. And seeing He takes pleasure in nothing so much, as in our felicity and prosperity, let it be an additional tye upon us to advance His Honour and great [illegible] all the endeavours of our Lives, without reserve, and with our whole Fortunes, which under His protection we may (if we please) so peaceably and comfortably enjoy.

The Parliament's Answer to His Majesties Letter.

May it please your Sacred Majesty,

YOUR [illegible] that rather raise [illegible] desires to exceed what [illegible] than make us confess them as deserving the Esteem your Majesty is pleased to express of them, in your Letter to us dated the 28th of *March*. The death of that our excellent Monarch is lamented by us to all the degrees of Grief that are consistent with our great Joy for the Succession of your Sacred Majesty who has not only continued, but secured the Happiness which his Wisdom, His Justice, and Clemency procured to us: And having the honour to be the first Parliament which meets by your Royal Authority, of which we are very sensible, your Majesty may be confident that we will offer such Laws as may best secure your Majesties Sacred Person, the Royal Family and Government, and be so exemplarily Loyal, as to raise your Honour and Greatness to the utmost of our power, which we shall ever esteem both our Duty and Interest. Nor shall we leave any thing undone for extirpating all Fanaticism, but especially those Fanatical Murtherers and Assassins, and for detecting and punishing the late Conspirators, whose pernicious and execrable designs did so much tend to subvert your Majestie's Government, and ruine us and all your Majesties faithful Subjects. We can assure your Majesty that the Subjects of this your Majesties ancient Kingdom are so desirous to exceed all their Predecessors in extraordinary marks of Affection, and Obedience to your Majesty, that (God be praised) the only way to be Popular with us, is to be eminently Loyal. your Majesties care of us when you [illegible] your special Charge, your Wisdom in extinguishing the seeds of Rebellion and Faction amongst [illegible] when you were the last King your Royal Brother's Commissioner, now again [illegible] when you are our Sovereign, are what our Subjects, here can never forget. And therefore your Majesty may expect that we will think your Commands sacred as your Person, and that your Inclination will prevent our defaults. Nor did ever any who represented our Monarchs at their Coronations (except your Royal self) meet with greater respect, or more exact Observance from a Parliament, than the Duke of *Queensberry* (whom your Majesty has so wisely chosen to represent you in this; and of whose eminent Loyalty, and great abilities in all his Former Employments this Nation hath seen so many proofs) shall find from,

May it please your Sacred Majesty,

Your Majesties most Humble, most faithful, and most Obedient Subjects and Servants, In the name of the Parliament Sic. Sub.

At Edinburgh the 28th of April
1685

Perth Cancell
J. D. Parl.

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